

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 07624 191640Z

ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 7624

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH, UK, UN

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO WALDHEIM

REFS: A) STATE 194983, B) STATE 194173, C) STATE 194341,
D) USUN 2632

1. I ACCOMPANIED FCO UNDER SECRETARY MANSFIELD AND UK UN
DEPUTY PERM REP MURRAY ON TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH
SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM IN VIENNA AUGUST 18, AT WHICH
TIME ORAL PRESENTATIONS ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA WERE MADE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS (NAMIBIA PORTION
REPORTED SEPTEL). MANSFIELD'S PRESENTATION ON RHODESIA
FOLLOWED PRECISELY TEXT SET FORTH REFTEL B.

2. WALDHEIM'S REACTION WAS GENERALLY AS FORECASE IN
REFTEL A, AND HE MADE COMMITMENT ONLY TO "THINK OVER"
INFORMATION WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED. HE EMPHASIZED
IMPORTANCE OF REACHING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT,
HOWEVER, AND NOTED THAT UN "PRESENCE" COULD SERVE
AS "ASSURANCE" BOTH TO INTERNATIONAL AND BLACK
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENNA 07624 191640Z

COMMUNITIES. HE OBSERVED THAT HE OBVIOUSLY COULD
NOT SPEAK FOR SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT HIS PERSONAL VIEW
WAS THAT CURRENT PROPOSAL REPRESENTED "A SOUND APPROACH".

3. CONTRARY TO DEPARTMENT'S EXPECTATION (PARA 6,
REFTEL A), WALDHEIM DID NOT POSE HARD, SPECIFIC
QUESTIONS ON NATURE AND MANDATE OF UN FORCE, BUT

FOCUSSED RATHER ON CORE QUESTION OF IAN SMITH'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS US/UK PROPOSAL. MANSFIELD REPLIED THAT THERE ARE "SIGNS OF FLEXIBILITY" STEMMING FROM FACT THAT "ELEMENTS IN RHODESIA SEE THAT THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE". HE ADDED THAT MILITARY AUTHORITIES ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER TREND OF SECURITY SITUATION. WALDHEIM QUESTIONED STRENGTH OF THIS SENTIMENT AND WONDERED ABOUT ROLE BEING PLAYED BY FONMIN BOTHA. (MANSFIELD HAD EARLIER INFORMED WALDHEIM THAT BOTHA AND PRESIDENT NYERERE HAD ALREADY BEEN BRIEFED ON US/UK PLAN.) MANSFIELD SAID HE HAD "FEELING" THAT BOTHA HAS INSISTED TO SMITH THAT LATTER MUST ACCEPT BROAD VOTING FRANCHISE. OWEN/YOUNG TRIP TO AFRICA WOULD INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SMITH REGIME, MANSFIELD NOTED, BUT TIMING DEPENDED ON DATE OF OWEN/YOUNG MEETING WITH FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS.

4. MANSFIELD POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD WANTED TO GET TO FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS PRIOR TO LAGOS MEETING, BUT THAT CONCOMITANT PUBLICATION OF US/UK PROPOSAL (IN FORM OF WHITE PAPER) WOULD HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR SMITH TO REPUDIATE PLAN BEFORE RHODESIAN ELECTIONS AT END OF MONTH. WALDHEIM AGREED THAT IT WAS PREFERABLE NOT TO TAKE THAT RISK, BUT NOTED THAT HIS CONVERSATIONS IN LAGOS COULD BE MORE USEFUL IF LEADERS OTHER THAN NYERERE WERE BRIEFED ON NEW PROPOSAL BY TIME HE ARRIVED IN LAGOS AUGUST 21. HE MENTIONED

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 07624 191640Z

KAUNDA AND KHAMA SPECIFICALLY, AND SAID HE WAS

PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING KAUNDA'S REACTIONS. MURRAY (WHO WILL BE IN LAGOS DURING MEETING THERE) PLANS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH WALDHEIM AFTERNOON AUGUST 21 AND WILL BRING HIM UP TO DATE ON: 1) ANY CONSULTATIONS WITH KAUNDA, KHAMA AND/OR OTHERS, AND 2) LATEST THINKING RE PUBLICATION OF US/UK PROPOSAL.

5. MANSFIELD OUTLINED PROPOSED SCENARIO FOR UN INVOLVEMENT (ALONG LINES PARA 2, REFTEL C),, STRESSING HOWEVER THAT TIMING WAS STILL UNCERTAIN. WALDHEIM EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ROLE OF PROPOSED

PEACEKEEPING FORCE, AND MANSFIELD STATED THAT ACTIVITIES WOULD BE PRIMARILY IN NATURE OF "OBSERVATION". THIS LED TO DISCUSSION OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD BE INVITED TO DESIGNATE, AND WALDHEIM THOUGHT IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT ROLE-OF-FORCES REPRESENTATIVE BE VERY CAREFULLY SELECTED.

WALDHEIM PICKED UP MANSFIELD'S THOUGHT THAT MILITARY OFFICER MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE AND OPINED THAT "AN EXPERIENCED NORDIC GENERAL WITH A GOOD BRAIN" MIGHT SERVE PURPOSE.

6. UK REPRESENTATIVES EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM TOWARD RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT AND FORESAW RENEWED GUERRILLA OFFENSIVE IN FALL IF SETTLEMENT NOT REACHED. THEY CONCLUDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT IT WAS PROBABLY NOT REALISTIC TO GET SMITH TO EXPLICITLY ACCEPT LATEST PROPOSAL; AIM AT THIS JUNCTURE WAS TO SUCCEED IN HAVING HIM NOT REJECT IT. BORG

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